

Message Text

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TO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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GENEVA FOR CSCE

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INFO FOR PAOS

1. HIGHLIGHTS. VIETNAM HAS TAKEN HEADLINES TUESDAY
THROUGH THURSDAY; TODAY'S NYTIMES FRONTPAGES ALSO LASER

TECHNIQUE MAY FACILITATE ARMS OUTPUT. COMMENT SCATTERED.

1A. TUESDAY BALTSUN INSIDE REPORTED SOVIET EXERCISE LOOMS AS BIGGEST. WEDNESDAY NYTIMES INSIDE REPORTED GREECE DENOUNCES ANTI-US DEMONSTRATORS; WASHPOST HAS SOVIET MILITARY REPORTED SUPERIOR; ALSO NATO OBSERVES SOVIET EXERCISE. WASHSTAR HAD FORD EMPHASIZES THREAT POSED BY SOVIET WARSHIPS IN SPEECH TO NAVY LEAGUE.

1B. THURSDAY PAPERS INSIDE REPORT GROMYKO SAYS SOVIET WOULD GUARANTEE ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE. WASHPOST HAS LARGE PHOTOS OF SOVIET SHIPS NOW REPORTEDLY IN MANEUVERS; ALSO NATO REFORM URGED TO CUT WASTE; PLUS COMMITTEE CUTS DEFENSE BUDGET.

2. BUDGET. THURSDAY WASHPOST GETLER REPORTS SENATE ARMED

SERVICES R&D SUBCOMMITTEE DEALT A PRELIMINARY SETBACK TO PENTAGON PLANS TO MOVE AHEAD WITH PRODUCTION OF B-1 BOMBER AND VOTED FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR TO TRY TO STOP SCHLESINGER'S EFFORTS TO REVAMP NUCLEAR STRATEGY BY IMPROVING THE ACCURACY OF MISSILES. SUBCOMMITTEE VOTED TO CUT 640 MILLIONS FROM 10.2 BILLION BUDGET FOR NEW WEAPONS PROJECTS, INCLUDING 160 MILLION FROM THE 672 MILLION REQUESTED FOR B-1 DEVELOPMENT AND 109 MILLION TO KILL FIVE IMPROVED-ACCURACY PROJECTS, MCINTYRE SAYING THESE SILO-BUSTING WEAPONS INCREASE FEARS OF A FIRST STRIKE BY AN OPPONENT. PANEL GAVE STRONG SUPPORT TO TRIDENT AND SOME NEW CRUISE-MISSILE AND MOBILE-MISSILE PROJECTS.

3. NATO. THURSDAY WASHPOST FOUQUET BRUSSELS REPORTS ATLANTIC ALLIES WASTE BETWEEN 10 AND 20 BILLIONS ANNUALLY BECAUSE OF DUPLICATION AND LACK OF STANDARDIZATION IN MILITARY EQUIPMENT, ACCORDING TO CALLAGHAN STUDY OF MID-1974 WHICH RECOMMENDS ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRANSATLANTIC COMMON MARKET IN MILITARY AND GOVERNMENTAL UNCLASSIFIED

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EQUIPMENT AND RESEARCH AS THE BEST MEANS OF OVERCOMING THIS DRAIN.

3A. CINCINNATI ENQUIRER EDITORIAL APRIL 14 DEPLORED BRITAIN'S FORTHCOMING REDUCTIONS IN ITS ARMED FORCES, EVEN THOUGH IT PLANS TO STRENGTHEN ITS ARMY ON THE RHINE; ENQUIRER ALSO PLUGS STANDARDIZING OF WEAPONS.

3B. WEDNESDAY WASHPOST HAD BRUSSELS UPI REPORTING NATO SHIPS ARE FOLLOWING WITH GREAT INTEREST SOVIET NAVAL EXERCISE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, ADMIRAL COUSINS SAYING IN NORFOLK THAT SHIPS FROM NATO'S STANDING NAVAL FORCE IN ATLANTIC WERE PERFORMING SURVEILLANCE IN NORWEGIAN SEA,

ACCORDING TO A NATO ANNOUNCEMENT. COUSINS ADDED EXERCISE SHOULD BE NO SURPRISE SINCE SOVIET NAVY OPERATES EVERY DAY IN EVERY OCEAN OF WORLD.

4. SOVIET MILITARY. TUESDAY BALTSUN HAD BRUSSELS AP REPORTING NATO OFFICIALS SAID SOVIET MANEUVERS ARE NOW SHAPING UP AS BIGGEST IN SOVIET HISTORY, AND ALLIED SHIPS AND PLANES ARE WATCHING THE EXERCISE IN THE ATLANTIC, PACIFIC, AND INDIAN OCEANS, ALSO LONG-RANGE SOVIET AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN SIGHTED IN CARIBBEAN AND OFF WEST AFRICA. AP ADDED THAT SOVIET UNITS ARE WATCHING THE ALLIED OBSERVERS AND ONE NATO SOURCE SAID: THE FOLLOWERS ARE BEING FOLLOWED.

4A. WEDNESDAY WASHPOST ROUNDUP ITEM REPORTED THAT TWO

WESTERN MILITARY LEADERS SAID IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN NATO REVIEW THAT SOVIET UNION HAS ACHIEVED MILITARY SUPERIORITY AND IS INCREASING ITS ARMED FORCES MORE THAN COULD BE JUSTIFIED FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES, BRITISH DEFENSE SECRETARY MASON SAYING FREEDOM CANNOT BE GUARANTEED IF WE IGNORE AN EXISTING THREAT SUCH AS IS POSED BY THE GROWING MILITARY STRENGTH OF THE WARSAW PACT, ADDING THAT IN TERMS OF PURCHASING POWER THE SOVIET DEFENSE EFFORT IS NOW PROBABLY GREATER THAN THAT OF US. ADMIRAL HILL-NORTON WROTE THAT SOVIETS ARE INCREASING THEIR LAND, SEA AND AIR FORCES TO AN EXTENT FAR EXCEEDING ANYTHING THAT COULD REMOTELY BE JUSTIFIED SIMPLY FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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DEFENSE.

5. NUCLEAR. THURSDAY NYTIMES SULLIVAN REPORTS THAT A LASER TECHNIQUE THAT SCIENTISTS BELIEVE WILL MAKE IT EASIER TO PRODUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND COMMERCIAL NUCLEAR POWER HAS BEEN DEVELOPED BY LOS ALAMOS SCIENTIFIC LABORATORY AND PROCEDURE HAS BEEN MADE PUBLIC FOLLOWING DISCLOSURE THT THE NEW TECHNIQUE HAS ALSO BEEN ACHIEVED BY SCIENTISTS IN SOVIET UNION. THE NEW LASER TECHNIQUE OF EXTRACTING URANIUM 235 ALSO IS EXPECTED TO COMPLICATE EFFORTS TO LIMIT THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BECAUSE IT WOULD MAKE POSSIBLE THE PRODUCTION OF URANIUM 235 USED IN SUCH WEAPONS WITH A MINIMUM OF TECHNICAL SOPHISTICATION, AND IT ALSO THROWS NEW LIGHT ON FEARS ABOUT THE THEFT OF PLUTONIUM BY TERRORISTS SINCE THE BOMB FUEL COULD MORE EASILY BE EXTRACTED FROM RAW URANIUM WITHOUT RECOURSE TO ELABORATE THIEVERY.

6. NATO SUMMIT. LOS ANGELES TIMES EDITORIAL APRIL 21 SAYS FORD SUMMIT TRIP TO EUROPE IN MAY WILL BE AMONG MOST IMPORTANT SUCH TRIPS SINCE WORLD WAR II; ITS MAIN PURPOSE WILL BE TO REASSURE OUR ALLIES THEY NEEDN'T WORRY THAT

OUR COMMITMENTS TO THEM WILL BE HONORED. EDITORIAL ADDS
BEST WAY TO HALT ANY AMERICAN SWING TOWARD ISOLATION IS
FOR PRESIDENT TO SHOW THAT HE UNDERSTANDS CLEARLY WHERE
US HAS ITS VITAL INTERESTS AND WHERE IT HASN'T.

6A. SUNDAY BALTSUN HAD REVIEW ARTICLE BY TREWHITT CONCLUD-
ING NATO SUMMIT IS SOMETHING OF A GAMBLE. IF IT IS
SUCCESSFUL THEN US AND WEST MAY FIND THE INEVITABLE
EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE TOLERABLE. IF IT FAILS, THE
ODDS ARE THAT MR. FORD WILL LOOK VERY, VERY BAD AT
HELSINKI AND MR. BREZHNEV VERY, VERY GOOD. THAT ALONE IS
ENOUGH TO EXPLAIN CURRENT SOVIET ENTHUSIASM FOR THE
UNDERTAKING.

7. ARMS NEGOTIATIONS. TRENTON TIMES EDITORIAL APRIL 3

SAID JACKSON PROPOSAL DESERVES SERIOUS CONSIDERATION AS AN
APPROACH TO SHIFTING SALT TALKS FROM EXERCISE IN
EQUALIZING ARSENALS AT EVER HIGHER LEVELS TO ONE OF
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ACHIEVING ACTUAL REDUCTIONS.

7A. LOS ANGELES TIMES EDITORIAL APRIL 16 NOTED THREE
SENATORS' MOVE TO GET ADMINISTRATION EFFORTS TO WIN
RUSSIAN AGREEMENT TO A LOWER CEILING AND SAID JACKSON
PROPOSAL COULD RESULT IN A VALUABLE, COMPARATIVELY LOW-
RISK STEP IN RIGHT DIRECTION. EDITORIAL ALSO FAVORS
SCHLESINGER PROPOSAL THAT US AND SOVIETS REFRAIN FROM
DEPLOYING UP TO VLADIVOSTOK LIMITS, BUT THINKS JACKSON
APPROACH MORE LIKELY TO PROVE ACCEPTABLE.

7B. DES MOINES REGISTER OF APRIL 16 HAD EDITORIAL,
ENTITLED PROGRESS ON MISSILES, AND DEALING WITH CRUISE
MISSILES. PAPER CONCLUDES LONG-RANGE CRUISE MISSILES
COULD IN A FEW YEARS SPEED UP THE ARMS RACE, EASE THE
SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES, AND
MAKE EFFECTIVE ARMS CONTROL MUCH MORE DIFFICULT. KISSINGER

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